

Livestock and Crop Producers and Landowners,

With all the thunderstorms and rain that we have received recently, I wanted to remind everyone that USDA has many programs available to assist producers who suffer losses due to adverse weather conditions.

In many meetings, I have discussed the following programs:

1. **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – this program is for livestock producers who have lost livestock due to adverse weather. Producers must notify FSA of the loss within 30 calendar days. If the loss is determined to be eligible, they may be eligible for government assistance.
2. **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** – This program assists with eligible feed and grazing losses due to eligible adverse weather conditions. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the *producer's* eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

With the storms and excess rainfall, one additional program that has not been talked about much is the **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**. This program provides emergency funding and technical assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. This can help with grading, shaping or leveling land; debris removal; restoring fences and restoring conservation structures.

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

1. be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use;
2. is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area;
3. affect the productive capacity of the farmland;
4. impair or endanger the land.

I was recently made aware of a thunderstorm that produced a very heavy rainfall on April 19th in areas of Pickens County. If you suffered damage due to this storm, please contact the FSA Office at (864) 467-2798, extension 2, immediately.